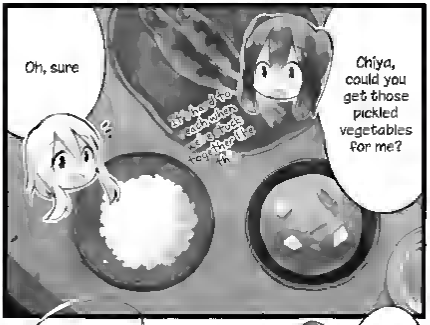
Just relax. This won't hurt a bit.
Now hold still.
THUMP
I...
I said no...
Ah
No...
No, Koume... Stop it...
UNABLE TO TAKE ACTION
WH-WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE ROOM NEXT DOOR?! SHOULD I STOP THEM? THEIR PRIVATE ACTIVITIES ARE NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT AS A WATCH-WOMAN I HAVE A DUTY TO OVERSEE THE WHOLESOME
HEAD SPINNING
You put up quite a struggle, you know.
But I'm not letting you go now.
PULL

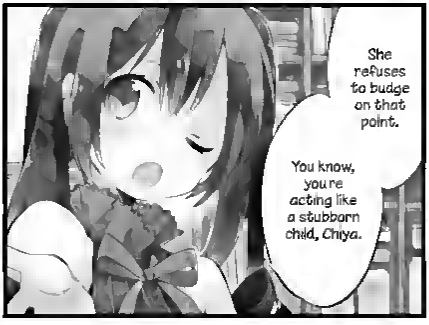
Just leave it be and it'll come undone eventually.
Time to eat
Oh, dear. What shall we do?
Break-fast

So that's what it was.
Her hair got tangled on your button.
Try as we might, we can't get it off.
STUCK
Phew


Oh, sure
It's the 3 of us sandwiches and 3 rice balls each, right?
Chiya, could you get those pickled vegetables for me?

N-NO WAY!
RAH!
Can't you fix that with a few snips?
Tu-tch

Here.
Open wide.
Huh? Cut it out. I can eat by myself.
It's okay. This won't hurt a bit.
SAKU VISION


She refuses to budge on that point.
You know, you're acting like a stubborn child, Chiya.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, WE SHOULD RESOLVE THIS QUICKLY, BEFORE THE DECENCY OF NATSUME-YA IS
MMMM
Koume you've got rice on your face
What's the matter, Saku?

ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
EEK!
I didn't mean her hair. I meant the button.

C-Calm down, Chiya! Okay, I get it!
There, there

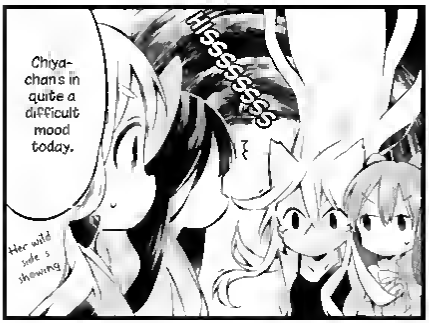
Chiya's hair is simply too long to begin with.
Hmm...
I've always thought so

AROOO!
She howled
J-JUST DON'T CUT MY HAIR!
ANYTHING BUT THAT!

Well, no time like the present.
I'll cut it for you. Come here, Chiya
SNIK

But how come, Chiya?
You even let me use it as a scarf
You don't seem to mind people touching your hair.
Is there some reason you don't want to cut it?

SCISSORS
SHUDDER

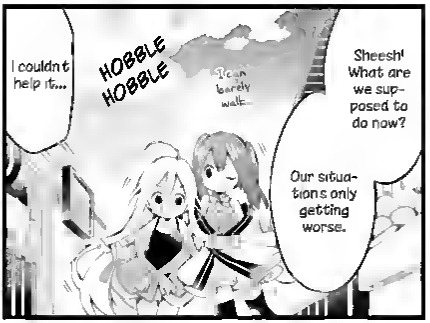

Chiya-chan's in quite a difficult mood today.
HISSSSSS
Her wild side's showing

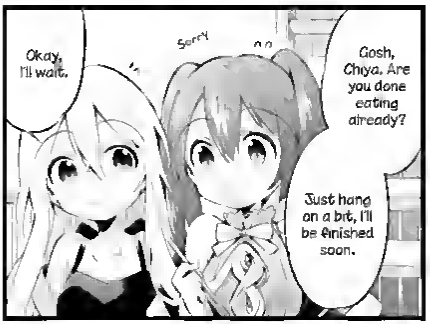
BEAST MODE
GRRRRRR
CHIYA'S GONE FULLY FERAL?!

SAKU, SIXTEEN YEARS OLD
Oh, yeah.
Saku-chan, you used to have long hair too.
Well, back in the day.
Well, they say a girl's hair is her life.
As a matter of fact, that's not all.
Really? I never would have guessed.
I would imagine it suited you. Why did you cut it?
A lock of hair is a mysterious thing that lives on even once cut from the body.
As such, it's taken as a symbol of the soul or life force.
It even shares a sacred bond with the gods, as well as the name "kami."
...I cut it when I joined the Watch.
I'd resolved to devote my life to protecting Labyrinth Town.
My haircut was a symbol of that.
SERIOUS
Wow...
You know so much, Nina-sensei!
It's been essential to divination and magical arts since days of yore, and thus holds a special place for urara
Your short hair is hard to tell apart from the rest of you, Captain Saku!
SAKU-SAKU
THOUGH OUR PROTECTOR OFTEN FINDS HERSELF PROTECTED, ISN'T THAT RIGHT, CAPTAIN SAKU?
Lay off
WE'RE SCARED WE'RE SCARED WE'RE SCARED!
I see!
That must be why Matsuko-san's hair grows
GRRR

DOOF
BRUSHING TEETH
FLINCH
I'd almost forgotten.
At any rate, we first need to figure out what to do with those two.
BANG
IN CLASS
Let's be realistic!
hrc
I-
IT'S FINE! I'LL JUST STICK WITH KOUME ALL DAY!
SQUEEEEZE
RIGHT, KOUME?
Huh? But...
Don't follow me in here!
IN THE PRIVY...
WHINE
Please, Koume...
WE'VE FORMED SOME BUMPS, THAT'S FOR SURE.
BRUISED
I could die of embarrassment
Well, did you form stronger bonds?
She got mad at me
LOOKS MORE LIKE A LEASH TO ME.
They've certainly formed a strong bond.
It's like she's taken in a stray dog
CHIKA!
I'LL PROTECT YOU, CHIKA!

Goodness, you meant her hair?
Of course not!
Oh hello
I thought you were two lovers tied by the red string of fate.
SHOPPING FOR DINNER
Though hair has the power to draw your destined one to you.
There was once a courtesan who wound her hair around the button on the cloak of the gentleman she loved,
They say to tie your hair is also to tie your destinies.
It's so sweet to see you girls so intimate
My, how unusual. Just the two of you today?
ERK
Yep Kon and Nono stayed behind today.
How beautiful
saying "Pray do not leave me yet, my lord
Wow
It's bittersweet, but so romantic!
You are surely my destined love."
If only I could have such a romance.
BLUSH
I thought Urara were all rivals,
but you two must be particularly close
Th-That's not it!
Think it was something like this?
HEY—WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOU'D SCARE OFF THE PARAMOUR OF THE CENTURY WITH THAT!
That's creepy!
TANGLED
A MORE SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP THAN I THOUGHT?
FLUSTERED
YOU SEE, CHIYA AND I HAVE, WELL... BECOME TIED TOGETHER...
Even more
Oh my
Unh uhm





Sign: Arinsu, Traditional Sweets

That said, I don't think I've ever seen Chiya like this before.
sniff

...hey, Chiya
Thanks for the food!
Yeah?

A MAINS GIRL WHO GREW UP IN THE MOUNTAINS
WHO KNEW NOTHING OF CITY LIFE, MUCH LESS ABOUT URARA
COME TO THINK OF IT, CHIYA'S STILL A COMPLETE MYSTERY

Isn't it about time you told me
why you're so against cutting your hair?

AND ALWAYS ACTS AS IF SHE WASN'T AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
YET DESPITE THAT SHE DECLARES SHE'LL BECOME A FIRST-RANK URA.
COMPLETELY GUILELESS. NEVER THINKS AHEAD.

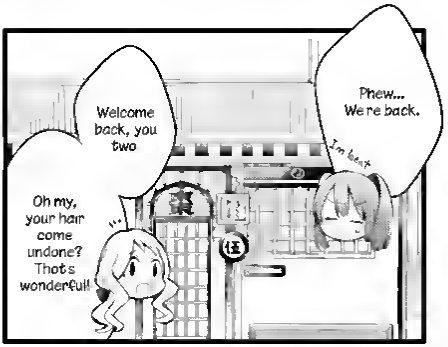
HMPH

...THAT'S ABOUT ALL I KNOW ABOUT CHIYA,
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TOGETHER ALL THE TIME.

WOULD YOU RATHER I PULL IT OUT?
TUG
It'll spare you from having it cut
OW, OW, OW!

STEP STEP
That's right! Everyone feels that way!
Let's just go home already.
Friends...?
You mean Nono and Kon, too?
Koume?
TUG
...just what are you so afraid of?
Would it hurt to tell me?
And, well... isn't it normal to want to know more
about your friends?
SNAP
I can't take this, Chiya!
Sure, we only met each other recently!
POUNCE
WHA-AAH!
KOUME, I'M SO HAPPY!
We're teammates at Natsume-ya and, I mean—
Well, we're friends now, aren't we?
But if our paths crossed, there must be some kind of destiny involved.
Teammates and friends and rivals!
We've got a lot on our plates!
O-Of course, we may be friends, but as fellow apprentices, we're rivals too!
She's shedding her clothes and making her move.
MURMUR MURMUR
Friends?
A quarrel in the heat of passion?
GASP
It came free.

I can't imagine how long it took to reach this length.
splash
It's even longer when it's wet!


Phew... We're back.
I'm back
Welcome back, you two
Oh my, your hair come undone? That's wonderful!

—this feels kinda funny
We're the only ones in the both.

Preparations for what?
Bathrobe?
You're just in time. We just finished the preparations.
Here, Chiya-chan Change into this bathrobe.

Those princesses sure lived in luxury.
silky smooth
Really?
They say the princesses of the past had many ladies-in-waiting tending to their hair like this

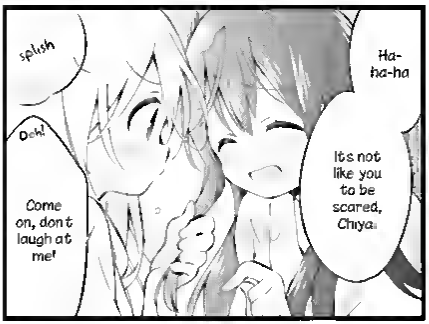
We're going to give your hair a bit of treatment.
If we use this high-class tea seed oil, then we won't need to cut it.
The reason it tangles so easily is because it's damaged.

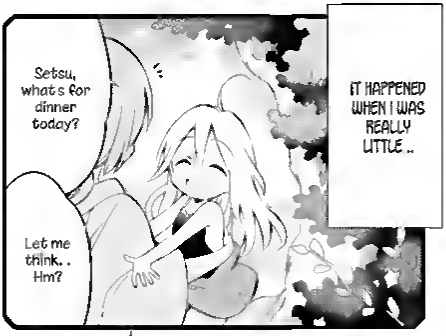
CHARMING
Moving
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CAPTIVATED BY THAT LIFE! HOW THEY'D DO UP THEIR HAIR AND PUT SHIPS OR DOVES IN IT

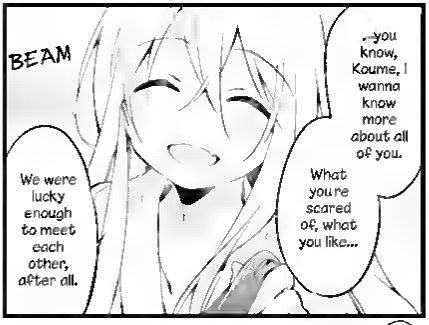
EEK
W-WE WERE SIMPLY TESTING TO SEE IF IT WORKED!
This is what you do when we're out shopping?
Is it my imagination, or are you three looking remarkably glossy?

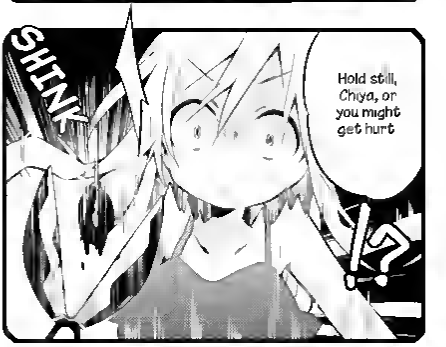
THAT EXPERIENCE IS SO FAR REMOVED FROM CIVILIZATION, I'M NOT SURE HOW TO COMFORT HER
I didn't even want to talk about it!
EVER SINCE THEN, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT I'LL BLEED IF I CUT MY HAIR AND IT SCARES ME AND SCARES ME TO NO END.
I can't stand scissors either.

...hey, Koume?
Is it okay if I tell you?
The reason I'm afraid to cut my hair...

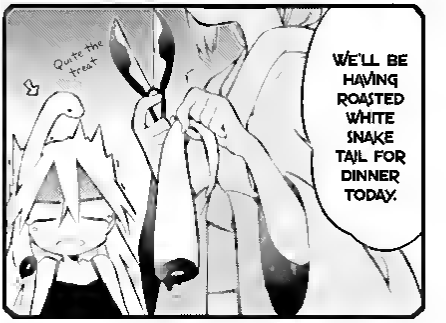

Splish
Deh!
Come on, don't laugh at me!
Ha-ha-ha
It's not like you to be scared, Chiya.


Setsu, what's for dinner today?
Let me think.. Hm?
IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS REALLY LITTLE..


BEAM
We were lucky enough to meet each other, after all.
What you're scared of, what you like...
...you know, Koume, I wanna know more about all of you.


SHINK
Hold still, Chiya, or you might get hurt
!?

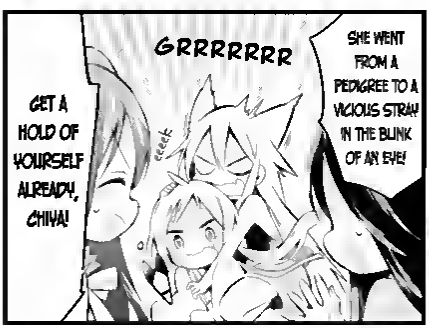
Ask away,
and I'll be happy to tell you
—sure.


Quite the treat
WE'LL BE HAVING ROASTED WHITE SNAKE TAIL FOR DINNER TODAY.

That's good to hear, right, Chiya?
At any rate, this should prevent further tangles for the time being
Yeah! Thanks, Nina-sensei!

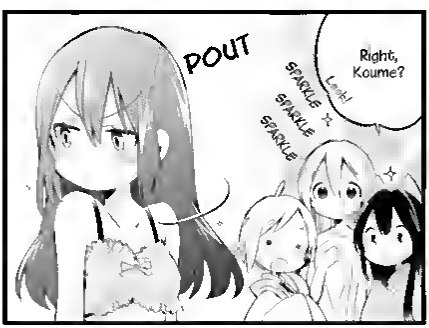
Okay!
We should start preparing for dinner.
Nono, can you put away the hairdressing tools?
SHINK

flinch


GRRRRRRR
SHE WENT FROM A PEDIGREE TO A VICIOUS STRAY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF ALREADY, CHIYA!
cccck

THERE. ALL DONE!
WHOA!

SILKY SHINY
Chiya-chan, you really look like a princess.
She's visibly gleaming compared to before! Is this really Chiya?


POUT
Right, Koume?
Look!
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE